The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum call has been requested.

Mr. WARNER. I urge us to proceed with the quorum call.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we have had a discussion with the leaders on the other side of the aisle. I think there is a consensus that with the current objection to laying aside the Smith-McCain legislative package, which is the pending business, together with the Warner-Dodd amendment, which also needs a UC to lay aside, we cannot do either of those at this time. So the consensus is we go into a period of morning business, and at the hour of 11 o'clock the Senator from Virginia be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Reserving the right to object, at the hour of 11 o'clock we would then return to the consideration of the matter that is now pending?

Mr. WARNER. Right, and that I be recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. And that the Senator from Virginia be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, it is my understanding, of course—and I think it is our understanding collectively—that for the next 1 hour and 15 minutes, until 11 o'clock, there would be no substantive legislative issues that would be introduced in any manner.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. I understand that is under the rules guaranteed. We should, I think to accommodate our distinguished colleagues who have been waiting——

Mr. REID. We should get that.

Mr. WARNER. Get the order entered. I was going to include a specific time for the President pro tempore, the former distinguished majority leader, and such others who want to be recognized during morning business.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 6 minutes be allocated to the distinguished senior Senator from South Carolina and——

Mr. REID. Twenty minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Twenty minutes be allocated to our distinguished colleague, Senator BYRD, and then the morning would flow in morning business until 11 o'clock.

Mr. REID. And all the reservations that were announced would be subject to the unanimous consent request that has been propounded?

Mr. WARNER. That is correct.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 6 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATION OF FLAG DAY, JUNE 14, 2000

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, 223 years ago today, the United States was engaged in its war for independence. I note that the American Continental Army, now the United States Army, was established by the Continental Congress, just 2 years earlier on June 14, 1775. I express my congratulations to the United States Army on its 225th birthday.

At the start of that war, American colonists fought under a variety of local flags. The Continental Colors, or Grand Union Flag, was the unofficial national flag from 1775–1777. This flag had thirteen alternating red and white stripes, with the English flag in the upper left corner.

Following the publication of the Declaration of Independence, it was no longer appropriate to fly a banner containing the British flag. Accordingly, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed a resolution that ''the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, and the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation.''

No record exists as to why the Continental Congress adopted the now-familiar red, white and blue. A later action by the Congress, convened under the Articles of Confederation, may provide an appropriate interpretation on the use of these colors. Five years after adopting the flag resolution, in 1782, a resolution regarding the Great Seal of the United States contained a statement on the meanings of the colors: red—for hardiness and courage; white—for purity and innocence; and blue—for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The stripes, symbolic of the thirteen original colonies, were similar to the five red and four white stripes on the flag of the Sons of Liberty, an early colonial flag. The stars of the first national flag after 1777 were arranged in a variety of patterns. The most popular design placed the stars in alternating rows of three or two stars. Another flag placed twelve stars in a circle with the thirteenth star in the center. A now popular image of a flag of that day, although it was rarely used at the time, placed the thirteen stars in a circle.

As our country has grown, the Stars and Stripes have undergone necessary modifications. Alterations include the addition, then deletion, of stripes; and the addition and rearrangement of the field of stars.

While our Star-Spangled Banner has seen changes, the message it represents is constant. That message is one of patriotism and respect, wherever the flag is found flying. Henry Ward Beecher, a prominent 19th century clergyman and lecturer stated, ''A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, and the history which belong to the nation that sets it forth.''

Old Glory represents the land, the people, the government and the ideals of the United States, no matter when or where it is displayed throughout the world—in land battle, the first such occurrence being August 16, 1777 at the Battle of Bennington; on a U.S. Navy ship, such as the *Ranger*, under the command of John Paul Jones in November 1777; or in Antarctica, in 1840, on the pilot boat *Flying Fish* of the Charles Wilkes expedition.

The flag has proudly represented our Republic beyond the Earth and into the heavens. The stirring images of Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin saluting the flag on the moon, on July 20, 1969 moved the Nation to new heights of patriotism and national pride.

Today we pause to commemorate our Nation's most clear symbol—our flag. An early account of a day of celebration of the flag was reported by the Hartford Courant suggesting an observance was held throughout the State of Connecticut, in 1861. The origin of our modern Flag Day is often traced to the work of Bernard Cigrand, who in 1885 held his own observance of the flag's birthday in his one-room schoolhouse in Waubeka, WI. This began his decades-long campaign for a day of national recognition of the Flag. His advocacy for this cause was reflected in numerous newspaper articles, books, magazines and lectures of the day. His celebrated pamphlet on ''Laws and Customs Regulating the Use of the Flag of the United States'' received wide distribution.

His petition to President Woodrow Wilson for a national observance was rewarded with a Presidential Proclamation designating June 14, 1916 as Flag Day. On a prior occasion President Wilson noted:

> Things that the flag stands for were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history. It represents the experiences made by men and women, the experiences of those who do and live under the flag.

Flag Day was officially designated a national observance by a Joint Resolution approved by Congress and the President in 1949, and first celebrated the following year. This year then marks the 50th anniversary of a Congressionally designated Flag Day.